

## An Honest Primary

(The Item will publish a few articles under the above caption written by a member of the legislature. They are strictly non-partisan and point out the changes necessary to eliminate fraud without taking away the ballot from any Democrat. The articles are in no way inspired by any candidate for office and none know of their preparation. They are designed solely to assist the mass of Democratic primary voters to clean house. Bills to this end will be acted on in the next legislature and our readers are of course interested in the subject at this particular time.)

### Do Your Own Thinking.

Few are found to oppose all primary reforms. Those against change cloak their purpose. They do not defend present conditions, that is a hopeless task. They stand back and object to each change suggested, saying it will take the ballot away from the poor man or the man who cannot write. These objectors give no reasons for their charges, nor do they offer other measures. Men are expected to follow them blindly.

Every man should do his own thinking about these primary changes. The troubles are before us, and known of all men who care to look. The remedies proposed are easy to understand.

### The Remedies.

Record the voter poll lists at the court house before and after voting. Permit the voter to enroll on only one club list, and only in the precinct where he lives or works.

Identify the voter at the ballot box.

Where important requirements are violated hold another election.

These safeguards are those advocated by experienced party workers from all sections of the State. They have been gathered from discussions on many occasions during many years. Leaders in the legislature who oppose extreme measures came to a pretty general agreement at the last session to support a bill embodying these points. Let us examine them, taking the last one first.

### The Penalty.

Penalties are seldom enforced. Why? Because they seek to punish, but not to remedy—directly.

The law says the manager who does not carry out the rules, shall be punished. But the defeated candidate doesn't care to prosecute him, the public is not interested enough to.

Neither are out for revenge, nor seeking the unpleasant task of preventing future fraud by present punishment.

The candidates are interested in the immediate outcome, though. They and their friends will go to a lot of trouble to locate fraud if it will do them any good. Give them the right to a new election whenever the law is violated in the important particulars and they will watch for irregularities like hawks. Then violations of rules will immediately defeat their purpose and become useless.

Mind you, new elections would be held only when important, specified infractions of the law could be shown, not for trivial irregularities. This would necessitate making each step in enrollment and voting plain, and open, and recorded where all men may examine what has been done.

Today everything is so obscure that even where much fraud is proved, and more believed, it is about impossible to upset an election. This power to upset an election would be a weapon dreaded more than any punishment of managers now set down in the law books.

### Protecting the Lists.

It is absolutely necessary at any kind of an election to have a correct list of those entitled to vote.

The club rolls should be made up some weeks before the election and sent to the county clerk of court. Shortly before the election the clerk should send a copy of each list to the election managers of each club. After the election the county executive committee should send the rolls back to the clerk.

This system allows the lists to be examined by all interested parties, and opportunity to have names put on or taken off on proper showing, before the election. After the election list used with the copy kept by the clerk, and the failure to use the proper list becomes a matter of record.

At present, even where the rules are carried out, and a poll list is used, it is about impossible, in the five days allowed, to check it up. How can candidates in populous sections tell in five days before the election whether the names put on at the last minute are fraudulent or not? The candidate is helpless.

Identify the Voter at the Ballot Box.

Managers in big voting precincts seldom know all the voters in them. When a man presents himself to cast his ballot and gives a name found on the poll list he is allowed to vote unless the managers know he is not the person he represents himself to be.

The burden of proof is on the manager. His task is doubly difficult because the rules allow a man to enroll his name up to five days before the primary, in a precinct where he does not reside, and in as many precincts as he likes. He may move into the township on the 24th, have his name put on the poll list by a third party and vote in the latter town on the 30th.

The law should be to enroll in person, in only one precinct, and that the one in which the man resides or works; and the voter should be given a card by his club officer, where he enrolls, to be shown at the polls. This card to have his full name and address, and a number all to correspond with the club list. Upon voting, a corner of the card, or a coupon attached to it, should be torn off so that it could not be used twice.

Provision should be made for issuing duplicates where a card is lost, and for transferring a voter from one precinct to another when he changes his residence.

These cards would be issued to every Democrat now entitled to vote who could show his residence in the State and county, and precinct the required length of time.

### In Conclusion.

Here are outlined changes in our present system, not a new system. Only outlines are given. Discussion of details would take more space than these articles can claim. But they are designed to carry out these general ideas. No attempt is here made to take the ballot from any class. Honesty is the aim of the changes—not disfranchisement.

Whether wisely or foolishly, South Carolina has long since established the purest of Democracies. Such movements do not go backward. Universal white manhood suffrage once secured will never be relinquished. But it may be thwarted and crippled, and cheated if it does not protect itself from carelessness and corruption by strong and well considered laws.

Legislator.

### Bishopville Policeman Dead.

Bishopville, Jan. 14.—In the death of Ed Cappel Bishopville loses a splendid police officer, a steady and reliable man at all times, and one who made good at everything he undertook. He was on duty just a few days ago but while in the discharge of his duty contracted pneumonia and died last night at 11.30 o'clock. He leaves a wife and child.

Mr. and Mrs. LeGrand Harvin, of Greenville, are visiting here.

## FLOOD SWEEPS VALLEY.

### SHELL, W. VA., INUNDATED AND RESIDENTS FLEE TO HILL.

Dam of West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company Breaks and Wall of Water Rushes Down Potomac.

Cumberland Mr., Jan. 15.—Huddled in rude shacks and about blazing camp fires, hundreds of flood refugees tonight watched and waited in West Virginia while the northern branch of the Potomac river, swollen to an icy flood, swept through their homes in the towns that dot the valley below.

A wall of water, starting from the broken dam of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper company at Stoney Creek, moved down to the Potomac, inundated the town of Schell, W. Va., where the two streams meet and started a flood wave, laden with wreckage and ice, down the Potomac valley.

Warnings of the approaching flood sent the residents of small towns along the river scurrying to safety in the hills, where tonight from vantage points they peered through the darkness in an icy gale toward the swollen waters below.

Telegraph and telephone communication was cut off by the flood during the day, but was reestablished tonight. Rumors of several men caught at Shaw, W. Va., 20 miles from Schell, which could not be confirmed, were the only reports of casualties attending the flood. The flood warning emptied the town of Shaw and sent many residents of Blaine, Harrison, Kitzmiller and other small places hurrying to the ridges. Fear that the water might rise still further prevented many refugees from returning to their homes, even in towns where little damage was done.

The flood wave apparently expended its energy in a mad 20-mile dash down the valley of Stoney creek from the burst dam of Schell. This valley, however, virtually was uninhabited. It was owned by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper company as a right of way and watershed.

The big dam, which impounded a lake of water five miles long and which was 65 feet high, had been weakened for several days. Last night it began to crumble and a farmer from the mountain village of Mt. Storm rode down the valley warning the few inhabitants of the impending break. A part of the big structure gave way early today and at noon the sweeping waters carried away the

greater part of the face of the dam. The released weight of water came in a wall-like wave, sweeping down upon Schell. There the roadbed of the Western Maryland railroad was washed out and traffic tied up.

Below Schell the rushing waters joined the Potomac river and for 70 miles the gradually diminishing wall of water rolled on, increasing the height of the river by from three feet to eight feet in its 70 mile course between Schell and Cumberland.

### PEOPLE FAVOR WILLIAMS.

Everybody Believes, According to Owen, That Munsey Trust Course is Beyond Reproach.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The senate banking and currency committee concluded hearings today into the nomination by the president of John Skelton Williams, assistant secretary of the treasury, to be comptroller of the currency and ex-officio member of the federal reserve board. Final action will be taken tomorrow. Hearings continued today on the action of Mr. Williams in connection with the deposit of government funds in the Munsey Trust company of Washington when that institution recently took over the United States Trust company to avert a failure.

"The testimony of every one," said Senator Owen, chairman of the committee, tonight, "has been convincing that the action of Mr. Williams in the Munsey Trust case was right and necessary. The committee will vote tomorrow to report his nomination favorably."

### SNELL AND REARDON.

Anderson, Jan. 16.—The Commercial Secretaries of South Carolina met in session at 12 o'clock today with twenty-five secretaries present.

A. V. Snell of Charleston was chosen president and E. I. Reardon, of Sumter, secretary. An adjournment was then taken until the afternoon session.

The secretaries will go to Clemson College tomorrow morning as the guests of President Riggs of Clemson College.

"E. I. R."

### Chronic Indigestion Permanently Cured.

"Six years ago," writes S. E. Carpenter, East Aurora, N. Y., "I was in very bad shape suffering from indigestion, could not eat solid food, when a friend advised me to try Chamberlain's Tablets. I found such relief from one box that I continued using them until cured, and though six years have elapsed I have not felt the slightest return of my former trouble." For sale by all dealers.—Adv't.

## REPORT ON COTTON.

Commissioner of Agriculture Prepares Review for General Assembly—Statistics for Year.

Columbia, Jan. 16.—Commissioner Watson of the State department of agriculture has prepared the following section of his annual report on the South Carolina cotton crop:

"The South Carolina cotton crop this year has been a matter of wide speculation in so far as its size is concerned. Since August the department of agriculture has steadily estimated the 1913 crop at 1,400,000 running bales, which is equivalent to saying that the estimate called for a second largest crop ever grown in the State.

"Up to January 1 1,342,827 bales had actually been ginned, according to the government report. After January 1 in 1912 51,029 bales had been ginned. If there are only that many bales still to be ginned of the present crop the department's estimate of the crop exceeds what will be the total crop by 6,244 bales. In the year 1911, however, after January 1 over 100,000 bales were ginned, and in 1910 over 100,000 bales were ginned. It is very likely that several thousand more bales will be ginned after January 1 this year, as was the case in 1912, and if that be true the department's estimate of the final total crop in running bales will almost exactly meet the actual final figures.

"The crop ginned by counties in this State up to January 1 for the years 1912 and 1913 is as follows: On the face of the ginner's returns on January 1 Orangeburg county leads the State as a cotton producing county, followed in the order named by Anderson, Barnwell and Marlboro."

**How to Break Up a Bad Cold.**  
Geo. P. Phung, of Hamburg, N. Y., says: "Chamberlain's Cough Remedy will break up a cold the quickest of anything I have ever used." This remedy contains no opium or other narcotic. It is most effective and is pleasant and safe to take. Try it. For sale by all dealers.—Adv't.

County Auditor was in the city Saturday after visiting various places in the western part of the county during the past week to receive tax returns.

**When You Are Bilious.**  
Food ferments in your stomach when you are bilious. Quit eating and take a full dose of Chamberlain's Tablets. They will clean out and strengthen your stomach and tomorrow you will relish your food again. The best ever for biliousness. For sale by all dealers.—Adv't.

STETSON HATS Creator Price <b>2.35</b>	HAMBURGER SUITS. Creator Price <b>13.95</b>	LADIES' SILK HOSE Creator Price <b>4c</b>	50c TIES Creator Price <b>19c</b>	W. L. DOUGLAS \$4.00 SHOES <b>.248</b>	\$6.00 WOOD BRANKETS <b>2.69</b>	CRIB BRANKETS Creator Sale <b>9c</b>
\$3.00 SILK WAISTS Creator Sale <b>1.48</b>	50c KIMONAS Creator Sale <b>15c</b>	\$3.00 SHOES Creator Sale <b>1.98</b>	MEN'S SHOES Creator Sale <b>98c</b>	MEN'S PANTS Creator Sale <b>74c</b>	LADIES' SHOES Creator Sale <b>98c</b>	PINS, PER PAPER Creator Sale <b>1c</b>
SPOOL COTTON Creator Sale <b>2c</b>	LADIES' HOSE Creator Sale <b>9c</b>	\$3.00 HATS Creator Sale <b>1.48</b>	RUBBER OVERSHOES Creator Sale <b>39c</b>	\$25.00 OVERCOATS Creator Sale <b>7.95</b>	LADIES' SERGE SUITS Creator Sale <b>3.98</b>	SILK PETTICOATS Creator Sale <b>1.48</b>
MUSLIN PETTICOATS Creator Sale <b>39c</b>	10c HANDKERCHIEFS Creator Sale <b>3c</b>	LADIES' HANDKERCHIEFS <b>3 for 5c</b>	WRIGHT'S UNDERWEAR <b>60c</b>	FLEECE LINED UNDERWEAR <b>29c</b>	LADIES' UNION SUITS <b>25c</b>	CHILDREN'S UNDERWEAR <b>10c</b>
MEN'S HATS Creator Sale <b>69c</b>	BOYS' SUITS Creator Sale <b>1.98</b>	ADLERS & MYERS KID GLOVES <b>89c</b>	<p><b>WE'VE CERTAINLY "MOPPED UP PROPER"</b></p> <p>Rather a crude expression, but it just fits. We get it all, liberally speaking. Of course we couldn't gather in all the crumbs and leavings—we just had to let a little get away for the other fellow.</p> <p><b>Thousands of People Just Coining Money Every Day!</b></p> <p>Facts—Ask anybody. The Creator Sale "Created" all right—not only a record breaking business here—but great wailing and gnashing of teeth among our competitors—they've tried to break in on the line—but nothing doing—the crowds are headed for</p> <p><b>The Bankrupt Store's CREATOR SALE</b></p> <p>And They're not Going to be Stopped.</p> <p>Given Away during the 13 Day Creator Sale, consisting of Sewing Machines, Leather Rockers, Coats, Blankets, Waists, Trunks, Etc. Register your purchases, you are entitled to the presents. See our windows, see if you can do it—there is money in it. Remember the 13 Days Sale, Jan. 10 to 24 at the BANKRUPT STORE.</p>			
Under the Red Umbrella South Main St. Near Sumter Hotel <b>Be Sure!</b> \$500 Five \$500 Hundred Dollars in Merchandise	Under the Red Umbrella South Main St. Near Sumter Hotel <b>Be Sure!</b> \$500 Five \$500 Hundred Dollars in Merchandise					